

COMMUNITY UPDATE

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Misguided adult entertainment zoning change will take effect soon

Dear Friends,

As you are probably aware, a misguided ordinance that allows adult entertainment establishments to lease space in a small part of the Fairwood Shopping Center is about to take effect. I joined with County Councilman Kent Pullen and three others in voting *No*, but we were in the minority of an 8-5 County Council vote on June 7. The County Executive signed this bill three days later, and it will soon take effect.

Adult entertainment establishments are completely inappropriate in a neighborhood shopping center like Fairwood Shopping Center. They frequently cause increases in crime, decreases in property value, and other negative impacts. Fortunately, despite the zoning change, there is reason to hope that these establishments will not be moving into Fairwood.

In the June 9 issue of the *Renton Reporter*, a representative of the company that owns Fairwood Shopping Center was asked if they would lease space to an adult entertainment establishment. He replied, "We're a retail business. We have no intentions of doing that." Also, Councilman Pullen and I worked to pass tougher regulations (e.g., 10-foot buffers between the dancers and patrons at these establishments) that will make it more difficult to operate such businesses.

Nonetheless, we shouldn't take anything for granted. I have written a letter to the owners of Fairwood Shopping Center urging them to uphold their newspaper pledge not to lease space to adult entertainment establishments – not now, not ever. Highlights of my letter are printed on the back. It would certainly be appropriate for all Fairwood residents to communicate to the owners of the shopping center how important this issue is to their families and to them.

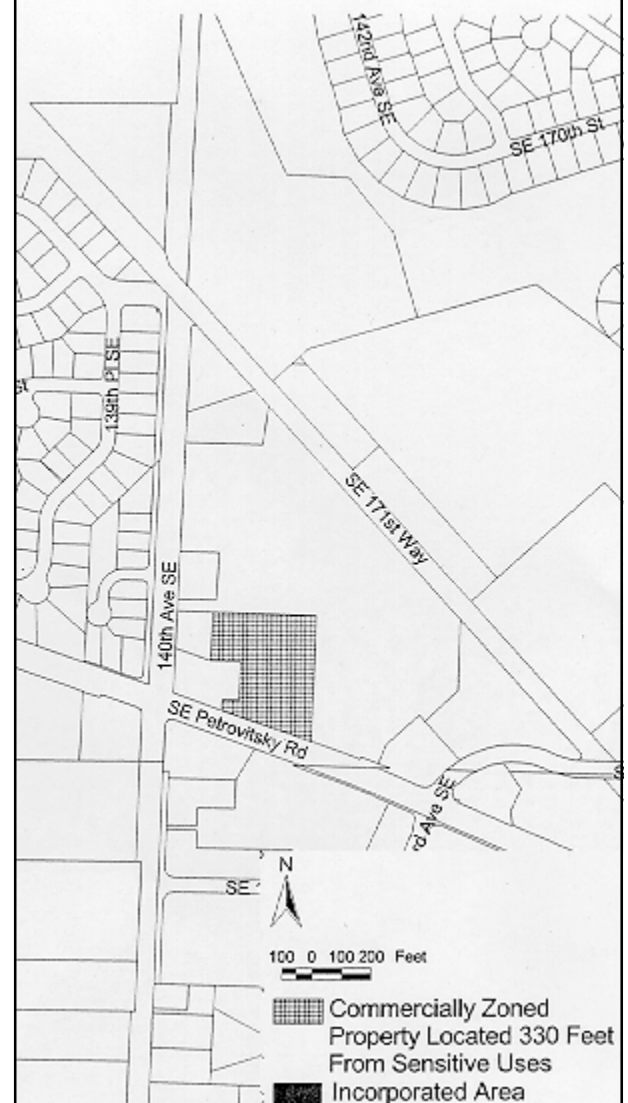
Please don't hesitate to contact my office should you desire more specific information about the adult entertainment zoning ordinance, the tougher new regulations on these businesses, or any other aspect of county government. It will take vigilance, but if we work together, I'm confident that Fairwood will remain a wonderful place to live and raise a family.

Sincerely,

ROB MCKENNA

Fairwood

excerpt from map accompanying adopted ordinance



The cross-hatched area indicates areas of the Fairwood Shopping Center where adult entertainment establishments could locate in the future.

HIGHLIGHTS

of my letter to the owners of the Fairwood Shopping Center:

"As you are well aware, Fairwood Shopping Center is a neighborhood shopping center that serves families from all over the surrounding community. Fairwood residents are justifiably proud of their community and want to see it remain a great place to live and raise a family. I'm sure that these same features played a large part in the decision of your company to do business in the Fairwood community."

"An adult entertainment business would be completely out of character with the Fairwood neighborhood and many real estate professionals predict that the opening of such a business would lead to a decrease in property values throughout the entire community. I hope that your firm will continue to provide leadership in leasing space to upstanding, responsible businesses like those that currently reside in Fairwood Shopping Center."

"I can't tell you how many positive comments I have heard about your statement in the June 9 issue of the *Renton Reporter* that your company has no intention of leasing space to an adult entertainment establishment at Fairwood Shopping Center. Given the level of concern expressed by Fairwood residents, the stronger the commitment you can make and keep making, the more reassured the local community will be."

"Thank you for all that you and your firm have done to provide a mix of retail establishments that serves the families of the Fairwood community. I'm sure you understand the level of anxiety that many residents feel about the future of Fairwood. I'm grateful for your commitment to the community, and I urge you to uphold your commitment to not lease space to adult entertainment establishments at Fairwood Shopping Center – not now, not ever."



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